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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Submachine Guns

1. Soviet small arms factories are reported currently to be manufacturing more submachine guns than rifles. These submachine guns are very carefully tested before they leave the factories, and the army is assured of receiving only weapons in first-class condition. An extremely large number of rejected submachine guns is left on hand, however. The high percentage of rejections is a serious problem.
2. Most rejected Soviet submachine guns are found to have defective barrels. Numerous investigations and the initiation of a system of awarding prizes to skillful workers have failed to cut down the rejection rate. Sabotage is considered to be out of the question, since the entire complements of certain factories were replaced without affecting the result. The machinery in the factories is also not believed to be to blame, since the same machines regularly produce both good and defective weapons. The investigation has finally been concentrated on the raw materials out of which the guns are produced. It is tentatively believed that the poor quality of the raw materials is to blame for the high rejection rate of the finished product.
3. Simplicity and durability are the two qualities emphasized in the Soviet submachine gun. The weapon is designed to function under the most adverse conditions, and toward this end a new lubricant has been developed to assure smooth action under conditions of extreme cold.
4. It is planned that in the future only sharpshooters will be equipped with rifles. All other infantrymen will carry submachine guns, including those previously trained to use rifles. It is believed that this program, despite the problems of supply and re-training, is well on its way toward completion. Numerous depots for reserve weapons and spare parts have already been set up.

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CONFIDENTIALArtillery

5. The experiences of World War II failed to suggest the need for any basic changes in the construction of the various Soviet field artillery pieces. Some measures have been taken, however, to increase the range and to improve the explosives. Broader caterpillar tracks have also been adopted to increase the maneuverability of the heavy artillery pieces.
6. In the realm of heavy artillery, Soviet ordnance chiefs have shown a particular interest in the Skoda 305 mm howitzer. Hungarian artillery experts have succeeded in effecting some improvements in this piece, including measures to promote better maneuverability. Engineers of the Kirov Heavy Machinery Plant No. 185 in Leningrad are in the process of building a new factory north of Chelyabinsk which will concentrate on the manufacture of this Skoda howitzer.
7. The development of a truly effective AA/AT gun is one of the few ordnance problems on which the Soviets have concentrated. It is believed to be quite certain that a new anti-tank gun has been produced. The old, ineffective, small-calibred AT guns are no longer being manufactured.
8. The famous German 88 mm gun, which could be used both as an anti-aircraft and an anti-tank weapon, made a great impression on the Soviets. With the idea of this gun and a similar Skoda piece in mind, the Soviets have now developed an AA/AT gun of their own in a self-propelled version. For anti-tank work this gun will be equipped with a special phosphorus shell which is said to be extremely effective (sic).
9. The Soviets are reported to be developing a new prime mover for artillery which will be simple in construction, sturdy, and mounted on tracks. A single basic model will be manufactured with the power of its engine depending upon the size of the gun it is to pull.
10. In the field of infantry support weapons, much emphasis has been placed on the development of more effective mortars. The new mortars are said to have a considerably longer range than the old ones, and they are being turned out in such numbers that it is evident that Soviet plans call for their completely replacing the other types of infantry support weapons. A large number of factories are devoted to the manufacture of 40, 82, 120, and 180 mm mortars.
11. The development and manufacture of rocket launchers are carried on under conditions of extreme secrecy. It is reported that launchers have been placed in position on the Baltic coast, the Kola peninsula, the Pacific coast of the Soviet Far East, and on the Soviet-Iranian and Soviet-Afghan frontiers.
12. Factories in Voronezh and Rutlovo (not located), near Moscow, are engaged in the manufacture of radio equipment for use by artillery. Large numbers of women are being trained to serve as radio operators with artillery units.
13. The largest factory devoted to the manufacture of optical equipment for artillery is the one at Krasnogorsk, near Moscow. Its workers are almost entirely former employees of the German Zeiss works. They are reported to be well-paid and maintained, but are not allowed to leave their place of work.

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